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Jay Franklin Says:

Russian Spy Scare Is Propaganda

By Jay Franklin

THE widely advertised Soviet spy scare is probably not a spy scare at all but a propaganda drive designed to scare the daylights out of American intelligence personnel and their own restless people.

So far, Moscow has announced the execution of two Russian-born "American spies" who the Kremlin claims were parachuted into the Soviet Union for sabotage. Under Soviet pressure, Hungary has tried on spy charges the four American airmen whose transport plane lost its way and was forced down by Russian fighters.



Jay Franklin

In this case, we have more or less blue-printed our whole intelligence operations and telegraphed our punches by including \$100,000,000 in the Mutual Security appropriation to help refugees and victims of the Iron Curtain countries to enlist in the Russian Army. The Central Intelligence Agency is set up in violation of the fundamental principle of intelligence: Not to put all your eggs in one basket. The Soviet operate on the "well basis," by which no one spy knows the identity of more than a few others in his group. The British Intelligence goes still further and a British agent knows only his superior. Then, if he is caught, the organization cannot be seriously damaged.

The trouble with our operation is that the armed forces are madly addicted to tables of organization and chains of command and cannot get it through their skulls that what is okay

for a division in the field is crazy for an outfit which wishes to avoid any public identification. Add to this the fact that positions in CIA are open to application by the public and you get a setup which is almost impossible to keep free from foreign infiltration. Once a foreign agent is in the CIA the whole operation is open to his inspection.

On top of that, the State Department has publicly organized what it calls a Psychological Warfare Board, whose members are publicly announced and hence are subject to intensive scrutiny by the Soviet spy service. Some could even be approached or put under pressure by the Kremlin.

SO I doubt that Moscow is seriously alarmed by the clumsy attempt of the Truman Administration to improvise an American intelligence service that could operate behind the Iron Curtain. If there is, as we believe, serious unrest in the Soviet Empire, the announced Russian crackdown on alleged U. S. spies and saboteurs will help keep the boys in line for the Kremlin. Naked people can't argue with machine guns.

Probably our greatest failure in our post war security is the failure of the Truman Administration to evolve a sound and inconspicuous method of conducting intelligence operations and of evaluating intelligence reports. Korea alone, with its double surprise that the North Korean invasion of South Korea and then the massive intervention of the Chinese Communists—is a case in point. By contrast, if the head of the Kremlin's spy service had made comparable mistakes he would have been shot. Ours are simply promoted.

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